

A NEW BLETIA
FROM SPANISH HONDURAS

BY
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AMONG recent collections made by J. B. Edwards in Spanish Honduras, a new species of *Bletia* has been recognized. It is without close allies and differs from all other Central American components of the genus in having the disc of the labellum closely beset with papilliform emergences below the base of the middle lobe. The following description was prepared with the aid of flowers preserved in alcohol.

Bletia papillifera *Ames sp. nov.* Cormus depresso-subglobosus vel pyriformis, vaginis pluribus scariosis vestitus. Folia lineari-lanceolata, acuta, nervosa. Scapus erectus, elongatus, gracilis, pauciflorus. Sepala lateralia oblonga, acuta. Sepalum dorsale simile. Petala anguste oblongo-elliptica, obtusa, nervosa. Labellum supra medium trilobatum; lobi laterales erecti, triangulares, obtusi; lobus medius obcordatus, leviter carinatus, carinis crassiusculis; discus papillifer. Columna vix in pedem producta, elongata, prope apicem anguste bialata, prope basim utrinque lobata.

Roots coarsely fibrous, whitish, smooth, sulcate longitudinally when dry, up to 7 cm. long, about 2 mm. in diameter. Corm globular or pyriform, 2–2.5 cm. long, covered with the fibrous remains of closely appressed sheaths. Leaves 12–20 cm. long, 5–17 mm. wide, one or two in number, much shorter than the flower-scape, linear-lanceolate, acute, tapering to a narrow sulcate base. Scape erect, about 40 cm. long, slender, about 2 mm. in diameter, with several closely appressed scarious sheaths. Flowers two to four, secund, whitish tinged with crim-

son, opening in succession, 2–4 cm. distant from one another, the lowermost one with maturing capsule while the terminal one is in the bud. Bracts of the inflorescence about 1 cm. long, lanceolate, tapering gradually to an acute tip. Pedicels about 1 cm. long, slender. Ovary about 1 cm. long. Lateral sepals 12–14 mm. long, 3.5 mm. wide, oblong, acute, lightly carinate beneath the tip or simply thickened, nervose. Dorsal sepal about 14 mm. long, similar to the laterals. Petals 14 mm. long, 3.5 mm. wide, narrowly oblong-elliptical, tapering rather gradually to a rounded tip, many-nerved. Labellum 14 mm. long, 3-lobed; lateral lobes triangular, obtuse, erect, arising just above the middle, 9 mm. long to the base of the column, the nerves nearest the sinus thickened or verrucose; middle lobe 5–6 mm. long, 7.5 mm. wide near the middle, 3.5 mm. wide at the base, obcordate or cuneate with a rounded retuse tip, with about eleven irregularly carinate or verrucose nerves, apical margin turned upward. Disc papilliferous along the nerves up to the base of the middle lobe, the papillae purplish. Column about 7 mm. long, dilated upward, with a rounded wing or lobe on each side at the base; anther 2.5 mm. long, conical, long-stipitate. Pollinia eight.

REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS, Department of Comayagua, Kilometer 154, Tegucigalpa Highway. Terrestrial in marshy ground in open pine forest, 3,400 feet altitude. Sepals and petals cream with a scarlet tint; lip cream with many scarlet stripes. October 6, 1932. *J. B. Edwards* 277. (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 39066).

ILLUSTRATION: Plant natural size. 1, flower, front view, enlarged. 2, flower, side view, enlarged. 3, column enlarged.

BLETIA *papillifera* Ames

